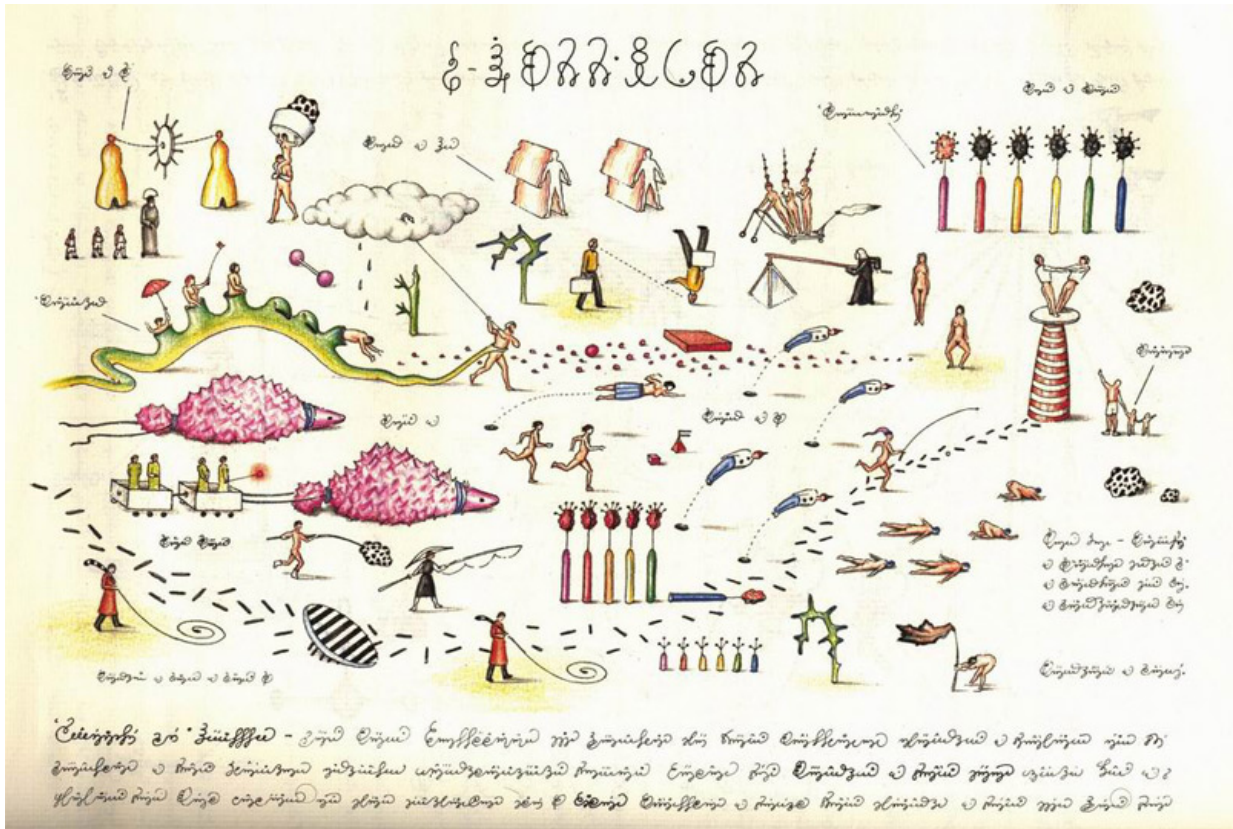


USC School of Cinematic Arts
SYLLABUS CTPR 448 [2 units] SPRING 2021
SPECIAL TOPICS: WORLD BUILDING DESIGN STUDIO

Location ONLINE INSTRUCTION ONLY
Time Tuesdays 9AM – 11:50AM
Instructor Peggy Weil pweil@usc.edu
Office Hours Virtual; by appointment
S.A. Joe Metcalf jsmetcal@usc.edu



L. Serafini, *Codex Seraphinus*

Course Description

World Design is a design practice integrating visual and scenario design in the construction of worlds as containers for narrative. World Design as an approach to narrative recognizes and documents interlocking systems of value and potential, creating conditions for choice, action and character across media to craft transmedia worlds. World Design encourages story development from diverse worlds and perspectives. The course welcomes projects across genres: documentary, drama, speculative fiction, fantasy and experimental immersive experiences.

3D modeling and visualization skills have emerged as essential tools for filmmakers from concept through production. In this course students will familiarize themselves with the basics of SketchUP, a 3D modeling tool. Using this tool, students will create wireframe models to visualize scene and story development. 3D modeling and animation tools can also be applied to VR, AR and 3D-Stereo projects. World Design practice integrates with the SCA Production curriculum; class projects may be developed in parallel with projects in other Production Department classes or applied to future work.

Course Goals

- Familiarize students with the concepts, work-flow, and tools of World Design including Placemaking, Embedded Narrative and Visualization.
- Acquire basic 3D Visualization tools using SketchUP*
**No previous experience with 3D modeling necessary. Students may opt to use other pkgs.*
- Clearly articulate visual and narrative elements of place, character and scenario.
- Create and document a comprehensive World Design in parallel with a current production project or as development of a future project. This document can be delivered with or without a completed script.

Course Structure

The course is run as a workshop for students to develop a project over the course of the semester and produce a World Design Document that defines and documents the broad outlines of a world, including one scene treatment illustrated with a 3D visualization. The elements for the World Design Document will be assigned in class to be uploaded into the class gDrive before 9AM of the stated due dates. Classes consist of lectures, in-class exercises and critique. There may be occasional posted readings and outside speakers. Final Presentations are Week 14, Final Revisions Due Week 15. There is no final exam. **The schedule is subject to modification due to availability of speakers.*

Requirements and Grades

Students are expected to come to class prepared and to participate actively in class discussions. Assignments must be submitted on time. Due to the limitations of ZOOM, some screenings will be assigned viewing before class. Assignments are due, either posted on class drive or via email to class email by 9AM (class time) of due date.

Please contact the Instructor and SA with any conflicts or issues pertaining to the virtual classroom. Consult SCA Creative Tech for technical issues. Directions regarding Zoom-related prompts for presentations and participation will be given in class.

Class begins promptly; excessive tardiness will be counted as an absence. *Attendance assumes that your webcam is enabled throughout class.* The only acceptable excuses for missing a class or taking an incomplete in the course are personal illness or a family emergency (with authorized documentation). Students must inform the professor before an excused absence or it will be counted as unexcused. One unexcused absence requires a meeting with the instructor and may affect your grade; two unexcused absences will lower a student's final grade by one third (i.e. from an A to an A-).

This class is run as a workshop and, as such, requires thoughtful and attentive attention to all class projects. The Class Participation grade reflects quality as well as quantity, i.e., the ability to engage in constructive and meaningful critique of fellow classmates' work as outlined in USC CET Menu of Discussion Norms.

Grading

10%	Class Participation	10 points
30%	Folder 1, Folder 2, Folder 4	30 points
30%	Folder 3, Folder 5	30 points
30%	Folder 6 [Final Document +Presentation]	30 points

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: Tuesday January 19

World Design as Container for Narrative / Observation
Assign Folder 1(Intro): Due W3

Week 2: Tuesday January 26

Place1 – Maps / Orientation / Intro to 3D SketchUP
Assign Folder 2: Reference Due W4; Folder 3 Map1 Due Week 5
Download SketchUP (free version) <https://www.sketchup.com/download>

Week 3: Tuesday Feb 2

Visiting Speaker: Presentation and Visualization Workshop: A.Todd Holland
Assign SketchUP Tutorials
Due: Folder 1: Final World Declarations

Week 4: Tuesday February 9

Laws of the Land: Assumptions / Rules / Mapping
Due today: Folder 2: Reference
Assign: Folder 4: Research: Table Of Contents + Schedule Due W7; Draft Due W13

Week 5: Tuesday February 16

Place2 – Regions/Corners
Due today: Folder 3: Map 1- Macro
Assign: Folder 3: Specify Space WK6 / Map 2 Due W8

Week 6: Tuesday February 23

Possibility Space / Exposition
Due Today: Designate place(s) w/in world to model
Assign: Folder 5: Scene Treatment v1 Due W8, v2 Due W10
Assign: Folder 5: Model/Walkthrough Due W13

Week 7: Tuesday March 2

Interior Worlds / Character POV
Ongoing: Folder 3: Micro Space – Sketches; Folder 5: 3D Modeling 3 views
Due today: Folder 4 Table of Contents + Schedule

Week 8: Tuesday March 9

Workshop scenes / Layered views
Analysis: Exposition / Genre
Due today: Folder 3: Micro Map
Due today: Folder 5: Scene Treatment v1

Week 9: Tuesday March 16

Revising Worlds: Guest Lecture: Edgar Arceneaux

NO CLASS • Wellness Day • Week 10: Tuesday March 23 • Wellness Day • NO CLASS

Week 11: Tuesday March 30

IMMERSIVE WORLDS: Visit to MxR Lab
Due Today: Folder 5: Scene Treatment v2

Week 12: Tuesday April 6
TRANSMEDIA WORLDS: Guest Lecture

Week 13: Tuesday April 13
Workshop Projects
Due today: Folder 5: 3D Model 3 Views

Week 14: Tuesday April 20
Due today: Folder 6: FINAL PRESENTATIONS & Critique

Week 15: Tuesday April 27
Revisions Due

S21_CTPR 488 WORLD DESIGN DOCUMENT

Folders 1-5 are Draft Material; Folder 6 is the edited, compiled presentation.

FOLDER 1: INTRODUCTION

Assigned Week1, Due Week3

1. NAME (even a working title, *not of the piece, but of the WORLD*)
2. GENRE
3. ERA [specific or vague] (present past future)
4. DESCRIPTION (brief) / PREMISE
Note: Not story, not characters: *Premise. "A world where...."*
5. INTENTION
Why this world? What are you exploring? What does this mean to you? POV?

FOLDER 2: REFERENCE

Assigned Week 2, Due Week 4

6. What is the mood/palette/sensibility you are going for?
This can take the form of captions for the material below, or a few sentences.
7. Photo or sketch reference (1-3)
Be selective! Choose up to three images to convey an era or sensibility.
8. Color palette

FOLDER 3: MAPS

Map 1 Assigned Week 2, Due Week 5

Map 2 Assigned Week 5, Due Week 8

9. MAP 1: MACRO Overview of geography
Show limits/boundaries/hazards/resources, indicating routes, barriers, entrance/exits
10. MAP 2: MICRO
Specify area(s) with potential for scene. Indicate relation to larger world.

FOLDER 4: RESEARCH / BACKGROUND

Begin Week 4, Ongoing throughout semester

Table of Contents and Schedule Due Week 7

Full Draft Due Week 13

11. World Guide

Contents will vary according to the specifics of your world; sci-fi has different needs than alt-history or naturalistic world. Document available resources. Anticipate categories that the creative team, and viewers, will need to understand your world and your characters.

Example:

History

Outline history/culture critical to understanding your world/premise, i.e. present day requires less explanation than history, alt-history, sci-fi.

Socio-economic structure / Resources

Who has power, access to resources? How is the balance of power maintained?

Laws

Relevant formal laws and repercussions, relevant social norms, application of laws, penalties, knowledge of laws, including informal laws.

Technology (if applicable)

Beliefs (if applicable)

Magic / Time Travel / Physics of Space / Survival etc.

Other cultural or social aspects to record critical to understanding behavior and events: possibly sports, institutions, transportation, language..

FOLDER 5: SCENE TREATMENT

Assign Week 6: v1 Due Week8; v2 Due Week 10-11

3D Model Due Week 13

11. Scene Treatment

A treatment, a brief description, of an encounter among beings that inhabit this world. The scene may not even end up in your final project, but the encounter, the fated/chance/unlucky or lucky meeting is an inevitable product of the place you've defined within your world.

12. MODEL+ 3 Views: Walk through from Folder 3 /3

You may opt for a physical model + sketches.

FOLDER 6: Final Document for Presentation

I.-III. *Due Week 14 for presentation in class + uploaded to gDrive*

IV *Revisions and Reflection Due Week 15*

I. Edited written component from folders above:

Intro: Folder 1

Background/Research: Folder 4

II. Images, with captions:

Folder 2: reference photos, colors + caption

Folder 3: macro and micro maps + captions

III. Treatment: Written component + digital or physical model

Folder 5: Treatment + Model

IV. Revision and Reflections (5% of Grade)

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Safety:

All students are expected to abide by USC School of Cinematic Arts Safety Guidelines. Violations of any of the safety guidelines may result in disciplinary action ranging from confiscation of footage to expulsion from the University.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Diversity and Inclusion are foundational to the SCA community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all identities and backgrounds can flourish. The classroom should be a space for open discussion of ideas and self-expression; however, SCA will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation or violence against person or property. If students are concerned about these matters in the classroom setting they are encouraged to contact their SCA Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, <http://cinema.usc.edu/about/diversity.cfm>; e-mail diversity@cinema.usc.edu. You can also report discrimination based on a protected class here <https://equity.usc.edu/harassment-or-discrimination/>

Disruptive Student Behavior:

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

Stressful Times:

These are stressful times in our country, and Graduate School in and of itself is stressful. I encourage you to take care of yourself and your fellow students. USC provides opportunities for Mindful Meditation <http://mindful.usc.edu> and Mental health counseling is available at the Engemann Student Health Center, 1031 W. 34th Street, 213-740-9355.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

Student Health Leave Coordinator – 213-821-4710

Located in the USC Support and Advocacy office, the Health Leave Coordinator processes requests for health leaves of absence and advocates for students taking such leaves when needed.

<https://policy.usc.edu/student-health-leave-absence/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following *protected characteristics*: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support & Intervention - (213) 821-4710
campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.